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Letter dated 4 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention yet another incident of violation of Cyprus's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as its air and maritime space, by Turkey.

On 27 May 2009, while the Cypriot-flagged vessel *EDT ARES* was carrying out maintenance on an installation for the collection of meteorological information off the south-west coast of Cyprus, upon request of the competent authorities of the Government of Cyprus, it was approached by the Turkish corvette *BEYKOZ F/503* asking to be informed of the work that it was performing. It was harassed by the same corvette for a number of hours before the latter eventually departed.

On 28 May 2009, a Turkish fighter jet (CN-235) flew to the above area, in violation of Cypriot airspace, and issued radio warnings to *EDT ARES* to withdraw "as it was in Turkish territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of Turkey". *EDT ARES* explained that it had been mandated to carry out maintenance work by the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and that it would remain in the area until its work was completed but the Turkish jet continued to issue warnings to the said vessel to withdraw.

These actions create unnecessary confrontation and tension, which is in fact the intended purpose on the part of Turkey in order to intimidate the Republic of Cyprus and obstruct it from carrying out any activity in its exclusive economic zone, especially as regards the exploration and exploitation of its sovereign natural resources.

The Republic of Cyprus stands ready to continue the process of delimitation of its exclusive economic zone with all its neighbouring States, pursuant to and on the basis of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Government of Cyprus has no doubts about its sovereignty over the totality of its territory, its territorial sea and its airspace and/or about its sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone and its continental shelf.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**

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